



DOR NewsRelease

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Revenue

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DOR AND PERAC COLLECT NEARLY \$200,000 IN BACK CHILD SUPPORT

Revenue Commissioner Frederick A. Laskey and Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, Executive Director Joseph E. Connarton announced today that the Public Retirement Match Program collected \$199,856 in delinquent child support payments from public employees last fiscal` year.

The public pension boards notify the Department of Revenue (DOR) each month with a list of retiring public employees and those individuals who are leaving state service and have requested pension contributions refunds. DOR then runs a computer check matching those who owe back child support with the list of pension recipients. If a match is found DOR issues a lien on the former employee's state pension for the amount owed in delinquent child support. The individual then has 60 days to pay the child support debt with other funds. If the debt remains unpaid after 60 days, the pension account is seized by DOR. The program enjoys 100 percent participation by the Commonwealth's public pension boards.

"Using this effective tool to retrieve back child support allows us to collect from parents who have avoided financially supporting their children," said Laskey.

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Frederick A. Laskey
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“The Department of Revenue commends the public pension boards for quickly embracing and continuing to work with DOR’s Retirement Match Program. Their active participation is essential to the success of the program.”

The Public Retirement Match Program was created by legislation enacted in 1998. All 106 public pension boards voluntarily participated in the retirement match program in FY2000. DOR intercepted, with the boards’ help, refunds from 63 retirement system members amounting to \$199,856 that benefited their children. The average pension intercept was \$3,241 and the largest was \$16,917.

“The retirement boards across the state deserve praise for aggressively enforcing the new statute and doing it in a manner that assures compliance, without inconveniencing the majority of system members who are meeting their obligations,” said Connarton.

The retirement matching program is an additional tool used to enforce court ordered child support. The Child Support Enforcement Division secures child support payments for Massachusetts’ children by wage withholding, bank levy, asset seizure, insurance intercept program, and state and federal tax intercept. Last fiscal year, DOR collected a record \$333.7 million in child support.

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